At the 2002 Spring meeting I was actioned to look into the following:

'It was suggested that BRICMICS should maintain a list of digital projects, such as announcements of upcoming projects, those in progress or completed, and new maps on websites'

The purpose of the list is to alert members to projects which might be of particular interest. However it is not meant to replicate information available on the History of Cartography website at: http://www.maphistory.info/projects.html or at http://www.maphistory.info/webimages.html

All lists compiled so far are available at: http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/maps/Digital.htm

This list is in two sections:

1) Projects
2) Related Projects – The Way Forward?

1) PROJECTS

BODLEIAN LIBRARY  
(Nick Millea)

Project previously listed:

Large Scale Ordnance Survey Holdings
Digitisation and geo-rectification of the Bodleian’s large-scale Ordnance Survey holdings by DigiData Technologies has been underway since early 2005. It is now envisaged that the project will be completed within three years, rather than the previously cited two years.

BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
(Bob McIntosh)

Scanning of 1:250 000 Geological Maps (UTM Series)
Maps in this series show three sorts of geological information: solid 'bedrock' geology, (S), Quaternary or 'drift' geology (Q), or sea-bed sediments (Ss). These are usually presented as separate sheets, although sea-bed sediments and Quaternary geology, or sea-bed sediments and solid geology may be shown on the same sheet.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND  
(Diana Webster & Chris Fleet)

No new projects to report.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND  
(Valerie Adams)

The joint PRONI/OSNI project to digitise the OS maps of Northern Ireland – 6 inch, 25 inch, 1:1,250, 1:2,500 and 19th century town plans is now nearing completion. The 25 inch county series, the 6 inch county series, the 25 inch Irish Grid series and the large scale town plans have now been scanned (almost 21,000 maps) and geo-referenced. Some remaining points of interest have yet to be captured.

P.T.O.
2) RELATED PROJECTS – THE WAY FORWARD?

Four projects with some relevance to this listing have come to my attention:

A) WAML (Western Association of Map Libraries) Scanning Clearinghouse Project
http://www.waml.org/clearinghouse.html

Launched in March 2006. They state on their website: “This Clearinghouse is an effort to create a union list of WAML’s digitization projects. Its goal is to increase our knowledge of and accessibility to scanned items and avoid duplication of effort.” Contributions are made via a password-protected on-line form. There are currently 23 entries, many for www.davidrumsey.com.

Would an on-line, searchable listing be useful to UK libraries? Who would be able to contribute to it directly? Who would maintain it?

B) Registry for Scanned Mapping: Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT) of the American Library Association

The MAGERT Publications Committee are developing a Registry for Scanned Projects which would be several fold:

- Establish what scanning has been done in a particular geographic area
- Head off duplication of effort
- For finding a particular digital image
- Tool for reviewing various technical parameters used in different projects -- file format (original scan), file format (display), resolution, color compression, and image management software

It is anticipated that the registry will be available for the ALA Annual Conference (June 23-27).

Might this provide a model for future developments in the UK?

C) Gigateway http://www.gigateway.org.uk/

Gigateway is a UK-based online resource for locating geospatial information relating to maps, graphics, images, documents and databases, etc.

It does not, at present, appear to include many contributions from Libraries and Archives. However, the person I contacted at Gigateway said that they would be happy to, and in fact would welcome, details of historical scanned maps.

Detailed metadata has to be supplied. Apparently many people use MetaGenie (freely available to download from www.gigateway.org.uk) to manage their metadata or alternatively use MetaGenie Online (a web version of the downloadable desktop version).

But, of course, it does not include projects in progress and so would not help to prevent duplication of effort.

D) Digitisation in the UK – the case for a UK Framework

December 2005 saw the release of a major UK report, Digitisation in the UK – the case for a UK Framework, sponsored by CURL (Consortium of Research Libraries in the UK) and the JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee). The report, based on the recommendations of a separate CURL-JISC study on provision of digitised (excluding born-digital) collections for UK Higher Education researchers, recommends the establishment of a UK framework for digitisation; greater co-ordination of existing services, and more investigation into users' needs. Both the report and initial study are available at http://www.curl.ac.uk/projects/index.htm#digisurvey

The report’s Executive Summary is attached.

Anne Taylor, Cambridge University Library
15 May 2006